

area of international scholarship. We are currently looking for a replacement for Robin, particularly among Social Psychologists with international interests. Tammy and Walid Afifi, Kelly Bost, and Jacki Fitzpatrick have all come on board in the past few months and appear to be transitioning well.

So it's an exciting time in the palatial JSPR suite of editorial offices. The Cappacino machine has been on the fritz, but the Foosball tournaments are a big hit. The Arizona desert days have not exactly cooled off, but the early mornings are approaching the sublime. Having a cut-off date for my editorial duties is a refreshing experience. I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. I just hope it is not a train.

Report from the Masthead Editor of *Personal Relationships*

**by Rebecca G. Adams,
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As you know, my editorial team and I are no longer accepting new submissions, but we will continue to put together issues and to serve as the masthead editorial team through the end of 2009 (Volume 16, Issue 4). We will continue to accept papers as they are recommended for publication by our reviewers until we have filled all of our issues, probably sometime early next summer, but possibly sooner. **This makes it extremely important for any author who has received an invitation to revise and resubmit a paper to do so in a timely way.** We are continuing to rely on our editorial board, ad hoc reviewers, and new scholar reviewers to review revised and resubmitted papers that they have reviewed previously. In cases where an additional evaluation is needed, we are occasionally asking one of them to complete a review of a revised and resubmitted manuscript he or she has not previously reviewed. The

editorial teams of Lorne Campbell, the new Editor of *Personal Relationships (PR)*, and Paul Mongeau, Editor of *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, are drawing reviewers from overlapping pools, so reviewers should not be surprised if they are asked to do more than one review during a short period of time.

Encouraging International and Interdisciplinary Scholarship

Two sessions included on the July 2008 IARR program were particularly relevant to our *PR* mission. One was a discussion organized by the former President of IARR Phil Shaver on International Cooperation in Relationship Research. The second was a session on Writing and Reviewing for an Interdisciplinary journal organized by my editorial team. These two sessions both addressed issues critical to the development of our field and the future of *PR*. At least partially as a result of these sessions, IARR President Frank Fincham appointed two committees to develop ideas for how to further the international and interdisciplinary missions of IARR and to support the increased submission and publication of international and interdisciplinary scholarship.

Joao Moreira is chairing the International Task Force. At the same time, Pearl Dykstra has volunteered to explore the possibility of *PR* reprinting a selection of articles previously published in languages other than English. If this initiative is implemented, these articles will either be published as a special issue before the end of my team's term or one at a time in the volumes Lorne Campbell puts together. Please contact Pearl (dykstra@nidi.org) or me (PersonalRelationships@uncg.edu) if you know of a high-quality article published in a language other than English that would interest *Personal Relationships* readers. In addition, I am hoping that the International Task Force recommends the establishment of a group of "super-reviewers" or willing senior co-authors who will work with scholars from under-represented countries to prepare their papers for submission.

Denise Solomon, one of my team's associate editors, is chairing the Interdisciplinary Task Force; one charge to this group is to develop guidelines that will facilitate the crafting of articles more fully reflective of the interdisciplinary goal of relationship research. Denise has already given thought to this topic in preparation for her presentation in the panel my team organized and also as she wrote the preface for *PR*, Volume 15, Issue 2, titled "Reaching Interdisciplinary Audiences."

The *PR* Masthead Editorial Team

Eighty-one scholars, who represent twelve countries (USA, Canada, The Netherlands, England, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Brazil, Greece, Austria, and Portugal) and eight disciplines (Communication Studies, Sociology, Psychology, Gerontology, Management Information Systems, Family Studies, Philosophy, and Women's Studies), serve as members of the Editorial Board. The representatives from Psychology include Social, Developmental, Applied, and Counseling Psychologists.

In addition to the members of the Editorial Board, 187 established scholars and 71 new scholars each reviewed one or more of the 171 manuscripts which were submitted to *PR* between June 1, 2007 and May 31, 2008 (note these reviewers' names and affiliations will be listed in *Personal Relationships*, Volume 15, Number 4, December 2008). Together the 416 ad hoc reviewers and the 126 new scholar reviewers who have expressed an interest in reviewing for *PR* add considerable diversity to our editorial team, including scholars from Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, and Vietnam and scholars representing the disciplines of Nursing, Marriage and Family Therapy, Psychiatry, Education, Neuroscience, Geriatrics, Public Health, Psycho-oncology. My editorial team and I try to have each manuscript reviewed by three scholars from two countries and two disciplines, including at least one member of the Editorial Board and sometimes including a fourth reviewer who is a new scholar.

Press Releases

At my request, beginning in 2008, Wiley-Blackwell increased the number of press releases they prepare for articles published in *PR* from two to three per year. Articles with well-developed discussions of the practical implications of findings are most likely to be selected. Thus far in 2008, they have prepared a release for Jaye L. Derrick and Shira Gabriel's article, "Parasocial Relationships and Self-Discrepancies: Faux Relationships Have Benefits for Low Self-Esteem Individuals" (*PR*, Volume 15, Number 2) and for Denise H. Solomon and Jennifer A. Theiss's article, "A Longitudinal Test of the Relational Turbulence Model of Romantic Relationship Development" (*PR*, Volume 15, Number 3). I receive a lot of email from researchers who have found out about the journal from reading the newspaper articles that have resulted from these press releases. It is important that authors write about the practical implications of their research so that these press releases can be written and written accurately.

Submission Statistics

The Editorial Office calculates statistics for each half year period. Please note that these statistics are not static; they change as manuscripts are processed. Note also that the statistics for Lorne Campbell's term could be quite different because he has moved to web-based submissions. I anticipate that the overall acceptance rate for my term will be approximately 18 or 19%, which is a bit lower than during Susan Sprecher's term. The average number of days from submission to first decision is approximately 16 weeks. Authors take quite a long time to revise and resubmit (a range of 3-6 months). There is therefore a wide variation across submissions in the time from submission to acceptance, but on average it takes approximately 14-18 months from submission to acceptance and a bit over 4 months more until publication. In practice this means that as soon as a manuscript is accepted it is submitted as part of the next issue.

The first authors of this year's (June 1, 2007-May 31, 2008) 171 submissions represent 27 countries. In addition to the United States, the Netherlands, Canada and Israel, which are the origins of most of our submissions, first authors were residents of Portugal, China, France, Canada, Germany, Turkey, England, Australia, Italy, Belgium, Austria, Norway, South Africa, Thailand, Lithuania, Taiwan, India, Vietnam, New Zealand, Spain, Germany, Poland, and Scotland. They represent many disciplines including: Psychology, Communication Studies, Family Studies/HDFS/Family Life/Family and Child Sciences, Sociology, Human Ecology, Social Work, Applied Social Science, Education, Preventative Medicine, Educational Science, Business Administration, Gerontology, Nursing, and Public Health. Approximately a quarter of the first authors are graduate students (25.1%).

In addition to publishing refereed articles, *PR* publishes prefaces and, in each March issue, an article by a distinguished scholar. Although I have written most of the prefaces during our term, Mario Mikulincer, Denise Solomon, and Susan Boon have each contributed one. Susan's appeared most recently in Volume 15, Number 2, June 2008, and was titled "Communicating Personal Relationships Research Findings." My editorial team's first distinguished scholar was Harry Reis (2007) and our second was Graham Allan (2008). Our third distinguished scholar article will appear in Volume 16, Issue 1, March, 2009.

It has been a delight to work with former IARR President Phil Shaver, the IARR Board, Treasurer Michael Cunningham, former Publications Chair Dan Perlman, the Editorial Board, the reviewers, and the authors. I look forward to working with IARR President Frank Fincham and Publications Chair Susan Sprecher (who has already been continuing to support *PR*'s efforts in her role as Past-Editor). I would also like to give special thanks to the Associate Editors and the two Editorial Assistants for their hard work. The Associate Editors, Editorial Assistant Sarah Hosman, and I look forward to the remainder of our term.

Tentative Contents of Upcoming Journals

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